

STAT

December 8, 1981

Mrs. George Bush
Old Executive Office Building
Room 268
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mrs. Bush:

I would like to add the support of the Association of American Foreign Service Women to the efforts of CIA wives in trying to provide a measure of financial security for their old age. A CIA wife, unable to earn a pension herself, contributes a great deal to her husband's career and to the agency's work. However, if divorced she is not entitled to any old age benefits - not even Social Security or Medicare, a benefit accorded 95 percent of the general population.

In the early sixties, Congress recognized the plight of homemakers divorced after long marriages and provided old age protection to former spouses of workers covered by Social Security. However, federal government employees are not covered by Social Security. Under federal pension plans, retirement benefits go to the present wife, and a divorced wife, regardless of how many years married, receives neither government retirement nor social security in her old age.

The AAFSW was successful in obtaining retirement and survivor benefits in the Foreign Service Act of 1980 for foreign service spouses divorced after long marriages. But CIA wives do not come under this provision in the Act. They must fight the same battle alone. In their case, the fight is much more formidable because they hesitate to publicize their problem, fearing it will draw attention to the agency and jeopardize the security of the employee.

We would appreciate any help you can give to these women who, at present, face an old age of penury after many years of devoted service to their country.

Sincerely,

STAT

President